Mr. T. K. KRISHNA MENON (*Secretary to the Legislative Council*).

In Madras, the Rule is entirely different. We have followed the Travancore Rules, more or less.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

I never knew that. Nothing was mentioned in the Rules. I thought we are following our own rules

President.—Our Council Regulation and Standing Orders are, more or less, based on those of Travancore.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

I think it is based upon those of the Travancore and Provincial Legislative Councils.

Demand VI—Excise—Rs. 3-13 lakhs—(*continued*).

President.—We are engaged with Demand No. VI, Excise; we have done with the motion of Mr. Mathew to reduce the allotment under Excise by one rupee. The next motion is by Mr. M. K. Raman—to reduce the allotment under Excise by Rs. 10,000.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

In the face of the assurance that an Excise Committee will be appointed, and that the Superintendent will take care that the Excise Department will give effect to the principle of Prohibition, I do not think it necessary to press the motion.

Mr. V. B. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR (*Superintendent of Excise Revenue*).

Even now the aim of the Government is gradual Prohibition.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

We are very glad to hear that.

President.—The matter will be thoroughly discussed by the Excise Committee.

The motion was, therefore, withdrawn with the permission of the Council. The whole Demand under Excise was passed by the House without any reduction.

Demand VII.—Stamps—Rs. 64 lakh.

Mr. A. K. VENGU AYYAR (*Secretary to the Diwan*).

Sir, I rise to move for a grant, not exceeding Rs. 53,312, under Demand No. VII—Stamps.

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Motion No. 24.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 40,000 for purchase of Stamps and Stamp papers by Rs. 100.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

Sir, I rise to move for a reduction of Rs. 100 from the total allotment of Rs. 40,000. My object, in doing so, is only to call the attention of the Government to the pleasant happenings that we find in the manufacture of stamps. We are spending Rs. 40,000 a year just to manufacture stamps by a foreign firm, Messrs. John Dickinson & Co., Ltd. I don't know why our stamps cannot be manufactured in Cochin itself. The Government Press is a first class institution which can very well do the printing. Our officers are able, capable, efficient and honest. We need not be any more afraid of tampering or forgeries in the matter of stamps. There is absolutely no difference between Currency notes and stamps in this respect. Currency notes are exchanged in darkness, while stamps at one time or other see the day of light in the Anchal Office; cards must also see the light of the Anchal Office; and at this time, when we hear of counterfeit Rs. 100 and Rs. 1,000, I do not think, it is worth while to counterfeit a pie or two pies.

Now, we are spending Rs. 40,000 for 2 pies, 3 pies, 4 pies stamps, cards and other things. With regard to these 2 pies stamps, I understand that the Government does not gain anything out of it. Our cost for these 2 pies stamps comes to 2 pies. When cards were worth 2 pies, I understand we were losers in getting the cards printed elsewhere. The Anchal Department is running a losing concern. We do not get anything for carrying letters, either stamped or written on cards. We pay whatever we may get to Messrs. John Dickinson & Co., Ltd. That practice, I submit, should be stopped. There is no reason why stamps cannot be printed here. By printing in England, a great deal of delay is caused. We, who have to conduct cases in courts, will be much affected by delay in getting stamps. When we go to the Vendor, he says that stamps are not available; and the Munsiffs,

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Magistrates and Judges will bear testimony to this. All this can be avoided, if we print our stamps here. There is no reason to think that our stamps will leak out. The person in charge of the Manufactuary will see that no designs are lost. It is only to call attention to this that I put in the cut. I do not press this motion further, if the Council will allow me to withdraw it.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

Is the allotment for Anchal Stamps included in this Rs. 40,000 for Supplies and Services? There is, besides, another item "Cost of Anchal and Service Stamps" under Supplies and Services, under the Demand for Anchal, p. 33 of the budget.

Mr. A. K. VENGU AYYAR (*Secretary to the Diwan*).

The allotment here is for Judicial Stamp papers, and that on p. 33 is for Anchal Stamps.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

Has local manufacture of stamps ever been attempted by the Government?

Mr. A. K. VENGU AYYAR (*Secretary to the Diwan*).

It has been attempted, and stamps had actually been manufactured till 1084. Then it was found that the stamps, we got here, were not good. So, the then Diwan, Mr. Banerji (now Sir A. R. Banerji), arranged with Messrs. John Dickinson & Co., for the supply. The printing of stamps with the bust of His Highness is not an easy thing, and they have a sort of secret printing, and the cost of the plant, etc., for the purpose appears to be prohibitive. The Government of India get their stamps printed in France.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

In Paris. But at a very cheap rate.

Mr. A. K. VENGU AYYAR (*Secretary to the Diwan*).

The question has not been considered whether manufacture of stamps should again be taken up.

President.—Since the matter has been brought to the notice of the Government, it requires due consideration.

Mr. A. K. VENGU AYYAR (*Secretary to the Diwan*).

With regard to the sale of stamps, there might have been some delay in getting stamps from England.

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The sale is now being effected by licensed vendors; and the Hon'ble Member said that there was not sufficient stock, &c. No instances of this kind have been brought to notice, and Government will be pleased to take the necessary action.

President.—You remember an instance recently?

Mr. A. K. VENGU AYYAR (*Secretary to the Diwan*).

That was only with regard to Hundi papers. They were received late. All those are received from England. I shall take care to see that we have a sufficient stock of stamp papers. We have now a large supply of stamps and stamp papers, so much so, that the Rs. 40,000 provided for stamps represent the cost of stamps and stamp papers to be paid in instalments.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON (*Vyttila*).

In some cases, we have to use 8 one-anna stamps, instead of one eight-anna stamp.

Mr. A. K. VENGU AYYAR (*Secretary to the Diwan*).

Sometimes, it may happen so, and not always. Necessary precautions will be taken.

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

Sir, I desire to bring to the notice of the Government some hardships, that Mofussil people are put to, in regard to the use of the impressed stamp papers. Under existing rules a document, for which the stamp fee is Rs. 15, will have to be written on two stamp papers for Rs. 10 and Rs. 5, which should bear the consecutive numbers of the vendor. The rule was so in British Malabar, and now it has been modified. Any ten-rupee stamp paper and any five-rupee stamp paper sold by the Cochin Government should be allowed to be used for the purpose. That is the practice obtaining in British Malabar, now.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

A point of order, Sir. The practice in British Malabar is that the stamp papers must be sold by one and the same vendor. If a document is to be written on a paper to the value of Rs. 15, it can be written on any two stamp papers for Rs. 10 and Rs. 5. That is not the rule here.

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

The same vendor must sell the two stamp papers on the same date. That is the hardship complained of.

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President.—That will be considered and easily remedied, to the benefit of the mofussil people at large.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph withdrew his motion with leave, and the total allotment for Stamps was passed without any reduction.

Demand VIII—Customs—Rs. ·04 lakh.

Mr. V. B. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR (*Superintendent of Excise Revenue*).

Sir, I rise to move for a grant, not exceeding Rs. 4,672, under Customs, Demand No. VIII.

Motion No. 25.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,672 for Customs by one rupee.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

My object is to call the attention of both the Government and this House towards the Customs revenue. We have two kinds of Customs revenue in the State. One, I take it, is from Malippuram port, and the other from the Cochin port on the Indian waters. These are the two sea-ports we have got in our State. Whether one port is within our sway or not I am not in a position to know.

I sent up several questions to the Government, regarding the works that have been carried on inside the lagoon, such as the Vendurutti reclamation ; and every information, which would enable us to know something of what is happening with reference to the large expenditure that is impending has not been divulged by the Government. I refer to the Harbour Works, to which we have to contribute. The other day, I found in the Financial Statement laid before the Travancore Legislative Council, that the Finance Member took great pains to explain to the House there what exactly the development of the Harbour question here is. Such being the case, I think some means should be found, by which, certainly, any information that is possible may be placed before this House as well, by Government. If, however, our Regulation absolutely forbids—which I don't think is the case—then, we have no cause to bring forward. If, on the other hand, the scope of the Regulation is limited and information

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